

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2008. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised, and a substitute specification has been prepared. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed is a "marked-up" copy of the original specification to show the changes that have been incorporated into the substitute specification. The enclosed copy is entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings and indicates that Figs. 10A, 10B and 11 should be labeled "Prior Art". Accordingly, a replacement sheet for these figures has been prepared with each of the indicated figures being provided with the legend --Prior Art--. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection to the drawings is now clearly obviated.

Next, on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Noda (WO Publication No. 2005/067353). However, the effective reference date of the Noda publication is July 21, 2005 which is after the priority date claimed in the present application. Accordingly, Applicants have prepared and submitted herewith a translation of the priority document. Note that the translation is accompanied by a statement that the translation is accurate. Since the necessary papers have been filed to overcome the date of the applied reference, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-7.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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